

Hello,

You are receiving this message as a follow up to a message I sent about participating in a Faculty Learning Community on Quality Online Programs. This note is a follow up to the organizational meeting held on Friday, January 21, which a number of you were unable to attend.

The purpose is to call for your participation in a study group on one of the five topics identified during the January meeting.

The five topics identified were:

1. Student Success
2. Faculty Success
3. Program and Course Development and Implementation
4. Organizational Infrastructure and Support
5. Business Model Issues

I know that several the topics might be of interest to you but, because of the anticipated time commitment for the study group, I recommend that you only participate in one. If you are interested in more than one of the topics, please consider becoming a study group leader and the leaders will be meeting together to share the issues across the topics.

The topics were identified by a survey sent on January 12, 2011. The survey was sent to 51 members of this email list and I received 22 responses. I reviewed each survey and a little over 300 specific issues were identified (See: Key Issues charted.docx attached to this email). From these specific issues, 35 categories were identified (See: Key Issues totals.docx). Participants at the meeting used these categories to identify the topics listed above.

Participation in a Study Group

I anticipate that your study group will meet at least once a month. It is my hope that you will take advantage of online communication tools to facilitate these meetings.

I will ask each group to appoint a leader who would be willing to meet with the other study group leaders and myself on a regular bases to coordinate activities.

The Office of Instruction and Assessment has offered their support to each group in the form of access to electronic collaboration tools and locating current campus expertise to participate in the study group

Goals: Spring Semester 2011

Each study group will take the semester to study the categories and issues identified in the survey. The study group will:

1. Refine and define the issues related to the group's topic.
2. Identify the resources, policies, and procedures that are currently available on campus.
3. Develop a set of questions for further research (i.e. What resources do other institutions provide, What does the literature say, etc.)

Goal: Summer 2011

Prior to the end of the spring semester, a graduate student will be assigned to your group. This student will be taking an independent study whose purpose is to research the answers to your questions. The five students participating in this independent study will meet throughout the semester to coordinate their efforts.

Their capstone project will be to present their research to all of the study groups when we return in August.

Goals: Fall Semester, 2011

1. Review the summer research collected in the Independent Studies
2. Make recommendations for policies, processes, resources, and support based on best practices. These recommendations would include:
 - a. Funding recommendations
 - b. Organization areas of responsibilities
 - c. Areas for development

At the end of November, the results of each study group will be compiled into a final report. This report will then be sent to the Assistant Vice Provost, Office of Instruction/Assessment and the Vice Provost, Outreach and Global Initiatives.

How to Participate

Please visit the survey below. You will be asked to select your first, second, and third choice of topics for your study group. You will also be asked if you would be interested in leading the group.

<http://www.surveymoz.com/s/458701/flc-op-study-group>

I look forward to working with each of you as we move forward on this exciting project. Please feel free to forward this message to any other interested faculty.

Chris